

## Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2023

### Present

First Federal, Tiffany Suydam (P)  
Fit 4 All, David Tate (VP)  
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (T)  
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (S)  
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel  
Atomy, Missy Mitchell  
Edward Jones, Jessica Gavin  
Garden Club, Peg Gerdes  
Gateway Trails, George Fero

Lebanon Library, Lacey Mesarchik  
Lions' Club, Susie Stevenson  
Matthew Ministries, Andy Fairlie  
Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze  
Sure Shot, Tony Barrale  
Member, Janet Schmitt  
Member, John Wright  
Member, Joe Zimmerlee  
Visitor: USPS, Brian Cloninger  
Visitor: Mascoutah Ace Hardware, Bill Millikin  
Scott AFB Liaison: Christine Spargur

President Tiffany Suydam called the meeting to order at 8:01am. Robin gave invocation, Introductions followed.

### **Reports**

**Minutes** March minutes were approved (Robin/Missy).

**Treasurer Report** Accounts are doing better than a year ago. Queen of Hearts pot is \$8,519.00. Volunteer help is needed to work 5-7 on Thursdays. Summerfield Lions are doing well with food and drink sales. (Rebeca/Peg).

**Visitors' Center** Marie and volunteers are amazing. Vista has extended their rental agreement and provided much needed income. Joe needs more 2023 Events flyers; the new tri-fold is getting ready to be printed.

**City** The short-term rental (i.e. Airbnb) ordinance passed; income from it will be earmarked for tourism. The council also approved adding Ginger Ale's drive-thru establishment to the TIF district as they move forward with construction plans. A new police officer was sworn in, reducing the shortage to one, and approval of an SRO is awaiting school board action in May. Five-year city plan was recently put back on website; while it has not been updated, all grants and action by city should be rooted in the plan.

**McKendree** Commencement is May 12.

**Merchants May Market** is around the corner. Merchants have been talking about Victorian Holiday and weekend Christmas themes and decided to take Christmas in July off the calendar.

### **2023 Events: Additional dates to put on the calendar:**

May 11-14, 18-21 LGP SpongeBob Musical  
June 4, 10am-4pm and June 5, Noon-4pm, Lebanon Matthew Ministries Collection  
June 10 – July 29 Lebanon Public Library Summer Reading Program  
September 9 Gateway East Trails "Let's RIDE! Lebanon"  
September 16 Gateway East Trails "Let's RIDE! Lebanon" rain date

### **Old Business**

**Queen of Hearts** Thursday evenings, Summerfield Lions Club: 5pm doors open; 7pm last ticket sale.

**Print Materials** New event dates will be added and distributed with QR codes and available in the VC.

**Tri-fold Brochure** Missy will take on to update and distribute.

**City Map** Second edit underway; open spots still available for the 5000 print at cost of \$150.00.

**Letter to City** Businesses that would like to add a camera may contact Police Chief. The Chamber will write a letter supporting action taken to catch offenders and curb incidents and vandalism. Chamber feels that a blotter In The Herald and O'Fallon Weekly would be of benefit.

## New Business - None

### Around the Room

Tiffany: Mouse Races tomorrow; Golf Tournament is full.

David: Would like to pursue Direct Mail to publicize events.

John: Sip 'n Paint will begin selling pizza in May.

George: Tour de Stooges is May 6. Gateway will fit and give away children's helmets at bicycle rodeo and sponsor a slow ride in September.

Robin: Pointed out that Chamber is missing from Downstate Tourism Times and print media stall has a strong following.

Peg: Garden Club plants are growing for Market; thanks for supporters of Tour benefitting scholarships.

Joe: VC needs more Event flyers

Lacey: Library and Merchants are collecting school supplies including hygiene and food items; list in library.

Tony: Has not been able to sell Sure Shot and has lost 80% business to a competitor; going to try to hang on and adapt. Meat Bingo is May 20.

Christine: Air Show is May 13 & 14.

Susan: Lions will have a vision/hearing booth at Aging Expo, 9-noon on May 18 at McKendree RecPlex

Rebeca: Grange had a wonderful Small Business Fair featuring beehive presentation and delicious pull pork.

Bill: Purchase of True Value in the works while settling insurance matters. May/June anticipated possession of entire corner. Soft opening in August, Ace will open September with new services and hours M-F 8-7; Sa 8-5; Su 10-4, a clone of the Mascoutah store that includes small housewares. Lou will continue to operate pharmacy. There will be 10-12 PT positions available and lease space opportunities.

Brenda: Funeral Home is excited about sponsoring Car Cruise in June and will have old hearse and lead car on display.

Brian: Stamp Out Hunger drive coming up May 13. Food may be brought to Food Pantry or Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02am. The next meeting is May 25, 2023.

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Brenda Pehle, Secretary

Tiffany Suydam, President

**Note:** Chamber news and minutes are distributed via Constant Contact. Please add [chamber@lebanonil.us](mailto:chamber@lebanonil.us) to your contacts to ensure delivery. Contact Rebeca Gabel, [rebeca.gabel@gmail.com](mailto:rebeca.gabel@gmail.com), if you need to be added to our e-mail list. Share our Lebanon Chamber Webpage and Facebook Page so that we can get the word out on all events:

❖ Lebanon Chamber Webpage: <http://www.lebanonil.us/>

❖ Lebanon Chamber Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lebanonchamberofcommerce](http://www.facebook.com/lebanonchamberofcommerce)